



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Flanagan

Important Information from the New York State Police Regarding E-mail Hoax

JOHN J. FLANAGAN August 18, 2011



The New York State Police has issued the following warning regarding an e-mail hoax which can impair your computer:

UTT Hoax E-mail Returns

(August 17, 2011 - Albany, NY) - The New York State Police Computer Crime Unit is issuing a warning about the new release of a hoax e-mail that purports to be a Uniform Traffic Ticket from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles issued by the New York State Police.

This e-mail is not from the State Police or the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The hoax e-mail requests that the recipient open an attached zip file, allegedly a copy of the traffic ticket to fill out and send to a town court. The zip file is believed to contain a computer virus and is currently being analyzed by the State Police Computer Forensics Lab.

If you receive this e-mail, you should not open the email or attachment as it likely contains a virus. Recipients should be advised that if they opened the e-mail attachment, they should update and run their antivirus software and take steps to be sure their computer system is secure. Please do not forward it to the New York State Police or your local police.

The Unit continues its initial investigation into the release of a previous spam e-mail that circulated heavily nationwide through Yahoo e-mail accounts back in July. This time, all different types of e-mail accounts are being targeted.

The New York State Police and the National Crime Prevention Council remind computer users of the following cyber-crime prevention tips to protect themselves:

- Use anti-virus software, firewalls, and other security measures to protect your personal information.
- Only open e-mails from familiar sources and only navigate to trusted sites.
- Change your passwords every 90 days and do not allow your computer's programs to save them.
- Back-up important files to external storage devices and be vigilant when downloading from the Internet.
- Install parental control software and monitor your child's Internet use to keep kids safe online.
- Establish family guidelines for appropriate computer use.

The e-mail subject line may contain the title "UNIFORM TRAFFIC TICKET." The following is a copy of the suspect e-mail:

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| New York State - Department of Motor Vehicles UNIFORM TRAFFIC TICKET | | | |
| | | | POLICE AGENCY NEW YORK STATE POLICE Local Police Code |
| THE PERSON DESCRIBED ABOVE IS CHARGED AS FOLLOWS | | | |
| Time 7:25 AM | Date of Offense 07/05/2011 | IN VIOLATION OF NYS V AND T LAW | |
| Description of Violation SPEED OVER 55 ZONE | | | |
| TO PLEAD, PRINT OUT THE ENCLOSED TICKET AND SEND IT TO TOWN COURT, CHATAM HALL., PO BOX 117 | | | |
| Please click here to visit the New York State Police web site for any further information on this matter. | | | |